

# Rural District Council of Shepton Mallet.

## MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Shepton Mallet Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1938. This Report is made somewhat later than usual owing to the pressure of other work.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL :—Dr. A. H. Finch, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY :—Mr. H. G. Lawless, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary and Housing Inspector, and Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

### SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

AREA ... 47,784 Acres.

ESTIMATED POPULATION ... 9,570.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES, 31ST DECEMBER, 1938 ... 2,993.

RATEABLE VALUE, £42,746. SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, £176.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. — The chief industries of the area are agriculture and quarrying. The position regarding unemployment is satisfactory.

			Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	...	{ Legitimate	125	56	69	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 13.69.
		{ Illegitimate	6	4	2	
Still Births	...	...	3	2	1	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births, 22.9.
Deaths	...	...	111	62	49	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population, 11.60.

Deaths from Puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of Registrar's short list).

			DEATHS.		RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	—	—	—
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	—	—	—
Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age :—					
	All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	61.07
	Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births	...	...	...	64.0
	Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	10 (last year 25).
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	—

### SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

- (ii) (a) Laboratory facilities. Any work required is carried out by the Somerset County Council.
- (b) Ambulance facilities. An efficient and adequate Ambulance Service is maintained jointly with the Shepton Mallet U.D.C. During 1938 the Ambulance was used 48 times in this District, 8 times for accidents and 40 times for sickness cases.
- (c) Nursing in the Home. Two District Nurses available.
- (d) Treatment Centres, etc. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and T.B. Dispensary, both County Council Institutions. This continues to be held at the Wesleyan School-room in Paul Street, on alternate Fridays throughout the year. From January 1st, 1938, to December 31st, 1938. Sessions numbered 26.

			Average.
Total attendance of Mothers for the 12 months	...	758	29
Total Attendance of all Children under 5 years of age	...	714	27.5
First Attendances under 1 year	...	329	12.6
Children seen by Doctor during 1938	...	155	6

The above shows an increase of attendances as follows :—

Mothers	...	...	...	237
Children	...	...	...	167
Babies under 1 year	...	...	...	177

- (e) Hospitals. There is one District Hospital supported by voluntary contributions and also a joint Urban and Rural Isolation Hospital.

The membership of the Hospital League for Shepton Mallet and District continues to increase and is now 3,503. This covers about 8,000 persons.

# SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**WATER.**—The scheme for a water supply in the village of Batcombe and part of the Hamlet of Westcombe has been completed during the year, and although the supply is limited to stand pipes it is a great improvement upon the public chutes that were in use before. No new schemes were proposed during the year.

**SEWERAGE.**—The Council decided to proceed with a new sewage disposal works and a new main sewer in Stoke Lane. The scheme was in course of preparation at the close of the year.

**PUBLIC CLEANSING.**—Refuse collection and disposal service is operating in 8 Parishes.

## CAMPING SITES.

- (a) The number of sites used for camping purposes during 1938 was three.
- (b) The number of camping sites licenced during the year was three.
- (c) Estimated maximum number of campers at one time is 20.

**SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.**—There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public, but action was taken to prevent the use of a semi-natural pond, which was an adjunct to an amusement park.

**SCHOOLS.**—The Sanitary condition and water supplies of schools are satisfactory. Closures were made when epidemic of infectious disease threatened, and schools were disinfected after such outbreaks.

# SECTION D.—HOUSING.

## NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

### (i) By Local Authority.

With State Assistance	(a) Rehousing under Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	40
	(b) Overcrowding	...	...	...	—
	(c) Other	...	...	...	—
Without State Assistance		...	...	...	—

### (ii) By other Bodies or Persons—

(a) With State Assistance	...	...	...	...	—
(b) Without State Assistance	...	...	...	...	27
(c) Rural Workers Acts	...	...	...	...	9

## I.—HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

1 (a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	136
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	160
2 (a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	35
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	40
(c)	Number of houses in which no action was found necessary	...	...	...	...	8
3	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	15
4	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	12

## II.—HOUSING ACTION.

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of INFORMAL action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	43
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	...	...	—

## III.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	1
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	1
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	9
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	1
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	11
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	70
(d)	The one new case occurring during the year was by reason of increasing ages of children since survey.	...	...	...

# SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register	...	...	...	350
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows :—				
(a) Distributors only	...	...	...	1
(b) Distributors who are also producers	...	...	...	61
Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors	...	...	...	Nil.

## MEAT SUPERVISION.

Slaughterhouses :—Licenced, 12 ; Registered, Nil ; Total, 12.

## CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The Somerset County Laboratory carries out such examinations as are required : Milk (under the Special Designations Order and for detection of tubercle bacilli), and Water.



SECTION F.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

			Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	...	...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	9	4	Nil.
Diphtheria	...	...	5	4	Nil.
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)			Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Pneumonia	...	...	13	Nil.	4
Erysipelas	...	...	2	Nil.	Nil.
P. Pyrexia	...	...	1	Nil.	Nil.

ANALYSIS. AGES.

Age Periods.		Scarlet Dever		Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.
0—	...	...	—	—	1	—
1—	...	...	1	—	2	—
5—	...	...	5	3	4	—
15—	...	...	1	2	2	—
25—	...	...	—	—	1	—
35—	...	...	2	—	—	1
45—	...	...	—	—	—	—
55—	...	...	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	—	3	1

Case of Puerperal Pyrexia aged 38.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE. Nothing noteworthy to record.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—The Somerset County Council have a scheme in hand.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods.		NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—	...	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
35—	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		2	5	2	—	2	1	—	—

Total New Cases ... 9

No. of New Cases last Year ... 12

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—Tabular statement appears below.

Water Supply and Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Refuse collection and disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	274
Housing and Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	268
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Milk Samples Taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	289
Council House Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	340
Nuisances.	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

I have the honour to be

Your obodient servant,

A. H. FINCH,

Medical Officer of Health,

Shepton Mallot Rural District.

